

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM US MISSION EC BRUSSELS
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C O N F I D E N T I A L EC BRUSSELS 2125

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EEC, EGEN
SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH EC COMMISSION PRESIDENT JENKINS

1. BOB SCHAETZEL AND I MET FOR ABOUT 40 MINUTES WITH
COMMISSION PRESIDENT JENKINS MARCH 3. IN COURSE QUITE
GENERAL DISCUSSION JENKINS MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. MONDALE: JENKINS EXPRESSED HIS GREAT APPRECIATION
FOR VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE'S VISIT. HE AGREED WITH
SCHAETZEL'S OBSERVATION THAT IT UNFORTUNATE US MEDIA
HAD UNDERPLAYED COMMUNITY ASPECT BUT OBSERVED THAT EUROPEAN
PRESS HAD BEEN VERY POSITIVE.

B. TRADE: IF WE KEPT POLITICAL CONTEXT OF OVERALL
IMPORTANCE COMMUNITY-AMERICAN RELATIONS IN MIND, WE COULD
HANDLE ANY LIKELY TRADE PROBLEMS AND WE CERTAINLY SHOULD
NOT PERMIT MARGINAL FRICTIONS WHICH WOULD ARISE FROM
POISONING ATLANTIC RELATIONS. HE ASKED ABOUT STATUS
SPECIALTY STEEL PROBLEM AND I REPLIED THERE WAS SOME
MOVEMENT AND MIGHT BE MORE BEFORE END MARCH. IN ANY CASE,
WE WOULD DISCUSS THIS AND COMMUNITY STEEL POLICY
DURING APRIL CONSULTATIONS. HE EXPRESSED HOPE WE WOULD
AVOID RESTRICTIONISM ON SHOES.

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C. ENERGY: HE ANTICIPATED MAKING REAL PROGRESS DURING HIS
INCUMBENCY ON EUROPEAN ENERGY POLICY AND EXPRESSED
PLEASURE AT US WILLINGNESS PURSUANT TO VICE PRESIDNET'S
INVITATION TO RECEIVE SENIOR OFFICIALS AND COMMISSIONER
BRUNNER IN WASHINGTON THIS MONTH.

D. MONETARY POLICY: HE ENVISAGED EVENTUAL ACHIEVMENT OF SITUATION WHERE US, EUROPE, AND JAPAN WOULD FLOAT WHILE RELATIVE RATE STABILITY WAS MAINTAINED WITHIN COMMUNITY. HE HAD BEEN IMPRESSED BY REFERENCE IN SCHMIDT-GISCARD COMMUNIQUE THAT FRANCE MIGHT REENTER SNAKE LATE THIS YEAR. BY MENTIONING HIS RECENT VISIT PARIS, HE PERMITTED US TO INFER WITHOUT HIS SAYING SO THAT BARRE AND GISCARD ARE SERIOUS ABOUT THIS. BYEARLY '78 HE THOUGH STERLING MIGHT BE IN POSITION TO JOIN SNAKE. HE COMMENTED ON PARADOX THAT INFLATION WOULD STILL BE SERIOUS PROBLEM IN BRITAIN BUT THAT BALANCE OF PAYMENTS COULD BE STRONG.

E. NORTH-SOUTH: JENKINS SAID WE NEEDED APPROACH THAT MADE SENSE FOR DEVELOPED WORLD. "SOUP KITCHEN" POLICY OF LADLING OUT MINIMAL AID NEEDED TO CONTAIN LDC POLITICAL PRESSURES WAS WRONG. HE THOUGHT MAJOR INCREASE IN AID TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES COULD PROVE TO BE KEY TO NON-INFLATIONARY EXPANSION OF DEVELOPED WORLD. (THIS SOUNDS LIKE CHEYSSON.)

F. PORTUGAL: I TOLD PRESIDENT I WAS INFORMALLY EXPLORING WITH HAERKAMP AND ORTOLI POSSIBILITY OF COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AS COMMUNITY IN PORTUGUESE CONSORTIUM. I NOTED THAT IT LIKELY USG WOULD LIMIT OFFICIAL APPROACHES TO GOVERNMENTS BUT THAT IF COMMUNITY COULD PARTICIPATE AS SUCH, I WAS CERTAIN CONTRIBUTION WOULD BE WELCOME. JENKINS SAID PORTUGUESE PROBLEM WAS MUCH ON HIS MIND (PRESUMABLY A REFERENCE TO THE ENLARGEMENT ISSUE) AND HE MUSED THAT MAJOR ASSISTANCE

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EFFORT WOULD BE REQUIRED TO PREPARE PORTUGAL FOR COMMUNITY MEMBERSHIP. HINTON

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